

LUBBOCK ARMY FLYING SCHOOL
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Thursday night
Dec. 10, 1942

Hello Folks,

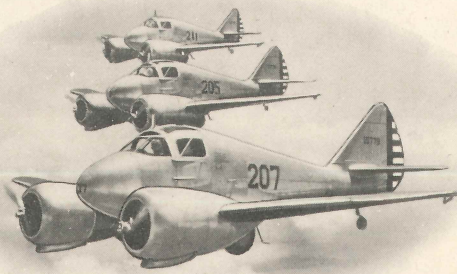
I just got thru talking to you a few minutes ago, - but somehow - I didn't tell you all I meant to, but still - I can't think of what I didn't tell you so guess I'll just wander along a few minutes more. If you want to come along - well, hop on, if not, just ignore it all.

Our graduation is all a thing of the past now. It doesn't seem possible the long looked for day has come and gone. Guess I might as well start with last night and give you the different happenings. Last evening was our graduation dance, and so, we all diked out in our new officer's uniforms and went to town. - I didn't have a date for the dance - I just ambled in by myself. - Seems I get more fun out of just going places and letting things develop than to make definite plans. - Maybe it's the spirit of always being on the move, or something. Anyhow, - I went to the dance - and bumped right into one of my friends whose Aunt, Uncle, cousins,

and girl friend had come down to his graduation. When he learned I was stag, - he proposed that I join the party and incidentally be a partner for his cousin! - I had a perfectly lovely time and everyone treated me royally. When his folks found I had no one coming for the ceremonies, - they immediately "adopted" me and I've ever run into them off and on all day, today. - They are from Denver and were lots of fun to be around.

Our actual ceremonies today were very simple due both to the cold and our large graduating class. - They made the announcement that we were the first class to complete the training here without a fatality and that we had flown a total of 3 million miles during some 40,000 hrs! - And that's just the advanced phase we received here! Just luck tho. - as was proven in several cases - but still quite a record! For my own part of it - I've now around 220 hrs of actual pilot time in the Army - and when you add to it my co-pilot time plus my 60 hrs before I came in, - well, - it starts mounting up!

We received our "diplomas" and wings so all is lacking now is our commission, which is only a matter of form at this point. - We wear our new uniforms all the time and even get saluted, - for of course the enlisted men can't tell we aren't really officers yet. - It seems awfully queer to be on the receiving end of the salute after so long a time. - Every now and then I see an enlisted man saluting and wonder who in the heck he's saluting, - then all of a



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sudden it dawns on me that I'm it" - so I try to return his very nonchalantly. You just can't stop a 15 month habit in a minute - or at least I can't!

As I said on the fore - it sure doesn't seem possible that I'm really where I am. - After all this training where the officer with wings was so far above you, - to suddenly find yourself right there, too, - well - it will just take months for it to sink in. I'm afraid. You see, for the sake of discipline they couldn't allow us to even entertain an idea we were almost through, - so it really is a jolt! - Tho. after we get into actual service, we, as 2nd Lts., will very quickly find ourselves on the bottom of another heap - you just can't win!

Oh, yes - our class rings also got in today, too, - so you needn't be on the lookout for it either.

And now - the choice of our assignments - They were all posted as to when we could go and how many would be taken for each place listed. - Dayton, Ohio, - was listed as 15 men, with Mobile, Ala. with 6. - These were both in the "Service command" which consists of engineering, testing & handling of equipment by air. They were the nearest east outside of Florida which were combat units in

preparation for England or somewhere. As a lot of our class ~~are~~ from both the Northeast and Southeast Atlantic States - Dayton and Mobile were swamped. - I indicated these as my first & second choice with the Ferry Command in Long Beach, Calif as my third. - I felt the 1st two were useless - because of the small number wanted, - but at least I was trying to get nearer home! The third, I just felt like I was going to get when I signed for it - I got! - Some-how, I'm both ~~sorry~~ + glad at the same time, if you can follow me. - I'm sorry not to get to go home at this time - but still glad of the assignment I did get! - Some of the others I might have gotten were "Lie Lie's" and no mistake about that! -

The "Ferry Command" is about the best deal in the army so far as real flying experience to be gained, - according to my notion. - Course I don't know what this particular detail will be, - but if it's consistent to others - we, as twin engine pilots, are capable of flying any plane the Army has and - in most probability will fly 'em. - We might ferry planes all over the U. S. or World, after we get more experience. With Southern Calif. such a big center of plane ~~manu~~ manufacturing - the idea must be to deliver planes even to the East coast - so maybe I'll be seeing you real soon after all! From the flying angle - the experience can't be beat. - So don't let the distance worry you. - Texas was far enough to not be able to get home from, - so what's 1500 more miles?

Now maybe the east & west Coast "Loopers" will get to see what each other look like. - I hope they are as much fun as Cousin Olive! - Also - Los Angeles is the home of Lewis' wife, Nancy - so in a way, I'll know more people than any where I've been yet. - Besides - I gotta see what the rest of the U. S. looks like!

Oh, yes - another feature that's a break. - 3 of the six of us that have hung together are getting married (one got married, today) and they are going other places. - The 3 single ones left, Joe, Paul, and I, are all going to Calif. to the same station - so at least we have our old gang together! -

I hope your new house (everyone kids me ^{about} the way I pronounce "house") is all it seems to be. Maybe in a way it's a break you are moving, cause if it's all you say - it must be lots nicer - and no little feature. - warmer! I'm glad it has the extra rooms so the rent won't be so steep. - What will the rent be?

Am enclosing our graduation program and one of my tickets. - Each one of us got 3, so I gave my other two to Buddy Lewis. - By the way - he's going to another station so I'll be leaving him. - Did I ever tell you "Sammy West" was an enlisted man at Lubbock? - If I kept on. - I'd be here with the whole of Washington's ball-team!

Am writ out now - and awfully sleepy. - so pardon my wandering for awhile. - will ya? -

Love
Frank

P. S. - Our new address as near as I know now, will be

Air Transport Command
6th Ferrying Group
Municipal Airport
Long Beach, California